

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

UNCLAS STATE 216626

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OTRA, CE

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CALL ON EMBASSY

1. EMBASSY MAY BE CONTACTED BY DR. TONY DON MICHAEL, SRI LANKA - BORN CARDIOLOGIST CURRENTLY RESIDENT IN BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA. DON MICHAEL, FORMER PROFESSOR OF CARDIOLOGY, UCLA, AND CURRENTLY DIRECTOR OF CARDIOLOGY CLINIC, IS VISITING SRI LANKA ON PERSONAL BUSINESS BUT PLANS TO RETURN IN NOVEMBER WITH FIVE-MAN TEAM OF U.S. CARDIOLOGISTS FOR WEEK-LONG SEMINAR INVOLVING TEACHING OPERATIONS AND DEMONSTRATIONS OF NEW TECHNIQUES. DON MICHAEL SAYS THAT HE HAS NEGOTIATED FULL COOPERATION OF LOCAL MEDICAL AUTHORITIES BUT HE HAS ALSO BEEN KEEN TO RECEIVE SOME FORM OF DEPARTMENT "SPONSORSHIP" FOR HIS TRAVEL ALTHOUGH HE AND HIS GROUP WILL MEET ALL OF THEIR EXPENSES. DEPARTMENT IS UNABLE TO FORMALLY ENDORSE SUCH ENDEAVORS, HOWEVER PRAISE WORTHY, BUT WE HAVE EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO ALERT EMBASSY OF GROUP'S PLANS AND TO REQUEST EMBASSY SUPPORT AND COOPERATION WHEREVER FEASIBLE. THIS HAS BEEN EXPLAINED TO DON MICHAEL AND HE APPEARS TO UNDERSTAND THIS BUT IN HIS ENTHUSIASM HE WILL PROBABLY WISH TO EXPLAIN IN PERSON HIS PLANS AND OBJECTIVES.

2. FYI - IN FACT DON MICHAEL AND FOUR U.S. COLLEAGUES APPEAR

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TO BE OF HIGHEST PROFESSIONAL CALIBER. THEY INTEND TO
BRING THEIR OWN TECHNICIAN, NURSE, AND ALL NECESSARY IN-
STRUMENTATION MUCH OF WHICH THEY WILL LEAVE BEHIND. END
FYI.

3. GROUP WILL PROBABLY ARRIVE IN COLOMBO AROUND THANKGIV-
ING AND REMAIN WITHIN COUNTRY FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS. KISSINGER

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